



January 22, 2007

Dear Financial Partners and Focus Group Participants:

Federal Student Aid would like to thank you for your active participation in the FFEL Data Flow Focus groups held in Orlando, FL on October 29, 2006 and Las Vegas, NV on November 27, 2006. We appreciated the opportunity to have an open exchange and explore with you ideas for improving how FFEL data flows among the many program participants and Federal Student Aid.

Over seventy people participated between the two focus group sessions, representing schools, lenders, lender servicers, guaranty agencies, and other service providers and associations. During our focus group sessions, we committed to sharing session notes with participants and others in the FFEL community who may be interested or did not have an opportunity to participate. Attached to this letter on the Financial Partners' Portal, we are providing:

- The FFEL Data Flow Focus Group presentation materials
- The participant invitation lists
- Orlando and Las Vegas Focus Group session notes

It remains an important goal of ours to continue the open dialogue that will help inform you of our efforts geared toward integrating Federal Student Aid systems, and maintaining quality data and services. To that end, we have created an email address, DataStrategy@ed.gov, for submitting additional comments, suggestions, and ideas to be considered.

The focus groups were a great opportunity for us to gain insight on what works, what deserves attention, as well as, gather important considerations as we move forward. Thanks again to those who participated and we look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Matteo Fontana".

Matteo Fontana
General Manager, Financial Partner Services
Business Operations
Federal Student Aid

830 First St. N.E., Washington, DC 20202
www.FederalStudentAid.ed.gov
1-800-4-FED-AID